

(xiii) Periodic Safety Audit of different divisions by interdisciplinary teams from zonal headquarters has been introduced.

(xiv) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised including use of Simulators for training of drivers.

(xv) Refresher courses are regularly organised at specified intervals.

(xvi) Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training.

(xvii) Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.

Gauge Conversion work on Kollam-Virudnagar Rail Line

† 2290. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the stage at which the conversion of metre gauge of Kollam (Quilon)-Virudnagar rail line into broad gauge stands at present;

(b) whether the conversion work has been commenced;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the work relating to the aforesaid broad gauge conversion is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Final Location Survey has been taken up on the Ghat section between Tenkasi and Punalur with the object of easing sharp curves and providing flatter gradients. Work has been started on earthwork and bridges on Virudhunagar-Tenkasi section.

(d) No target date has yet been fixed.

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.